

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

BUCKS COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND,
Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALLY FINANCIAL INC., MICHAEL A. CARPENTER,
CHRISTOPHER A. HALMY, DAVID J. DEBRUNNER,
ROBERT T. BLAKELY, MAYREE C. CLARK, STEPHEN A.
FEINBERG, KIM S. FENNEBRESQUE, GERALD
GREENWALD, FRANKLIN W. HOBBS, BRIAN P.
MACDONALD, MARJORIE MAGNER, HENRY S. MILLER,
MATHEW PENDO, CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS INC.,
GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO., MORGAN STANLEY & CO.
LLC, BARCLAYS CAPITAL INC., MERRILL LYNCH,
PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED, DEUTSCHE
BANK SECURITIES INC., J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC,
SANDLER O'NEILL & PARTNERS, L.P., KEEFE, BRUYETTE
& WOODS, INC., CREDIT SUISSE SECURITIES (USA) LLC,
EVERCORE GROUP L.L.C., RBC CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC,
SCOTIA CAPITAL (USA) INC., CREDIT AGRICOLE
SECURITIES (USA) INC., RAYMOND JAMES &
ASSOCIATES, INC., SG AMERICAS SECURITIES, LLC,
GUGGENHEIM SECURITIES, LLC, SANFORD C.
BERNSTEIN & CO., LLC, GLOBAL HUNTER SECURITIES,
LLC, HEIGHT SECURITIES, LLC, JMP SECURITIES LLC,
LOOP CAPITAL MARKETS LLC, BLAYLOCK BEAL VAN,
LLC, CASTLEOAK SECURITIES, L.P., MISCHLER
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC., THE WILLIAMS CAPITAL
GROUP, L.P., C.L. KING & ASSOCIATES, INC.,
LEBENTHAL & CO., LLC, MFR SECURITIES, INC.,
SAMUEL A. RAMIREZ & COMPANY, INC., DREXEL
HAMILTON, LLC, MURIEL SIEBERT & CO., INC., TELSEY
ADVISORY GROUP LLC, TOUSSAINT CAPITAL
PARTNERS, LLC, ACADEMY SECURITIES INC., FREEMAN
& CO. SECURITIES LLC, and WM SMITH & CO.,

Defendants.

Case No:

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, Defendant Ally Financial Inc. (“Ally”), by its undersigned counsel, hereby gives notice and removes the above-captioned action, and all claims and causes of action therein, from the Circuit Court of the County of Wayne, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Ally states that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A), all defendants who have been properly joined and served consent to removal of the action.¹ Ally appears (and other defendants consent) for the purpose of removal only and for no other purpose, and reserves all rights and defenses available to it, including those based on lack of personal jurisdiction.²

¹ The Sixth Circuit has held that all defendants do not need to separately submit a paper expressing concurrence. *Cadez v. Residential Credit Sols., Inc.*, 2013 WL 2238486, at *3 (E.D. Mich. May 21, 2013) (“Rule 11 does not prohibit counsel for the removing defendant to represent a co-defendant’s consent on behalf of that co-defendant. A co-defendant that consents to removal is also not required ‘to submit a pleading, written motion, or other paper directly expressing that concurrence.’”) (citing *Harper v. AutoAlliance Int’l, Inc.*, 392 F.3d 195, 201-02 (6th Cir. 2004)).

² See, e.g., *Morris & Co. v. Skandinavia Ins. Co.*, 279 U.S. 405, 409 (1929) (“Petitioner suggests that, by removal of the case to the federal court, objection to jurisdiction over the person of respondent was waived. Our decisions are to the contrary.”); *Full Spectrum Sols., Inc. v. Harmony Lighting, Inc.*, 2007 WL 1218719, at *1 (E.D. Mich. Apr. 23, 2007) (“Regarding removal of an action to federal court, [here] a defendant does not waive objections to service of process or personal jurisdiction by removing a state court action to federal court.”); *Speckine v. Stanwick Int’l, Inc.*, 503 F. Supp. 1055, 1059 (W.D. Mich. 1980) (“This Court . . . rejects plaintiff’s contentions that defendant has consented to jurisdiction by removing the action from state court.”).

Ally respectfully represents the following in accordance with the requirement of 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) for a “short and plain statement of the grounds for removal”:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. On October 21, 2016, Plaintiff Bucks County Employees Retirement Fund (“Plaintiff”) initiated this putative class action by filing a complaint in the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne, No. 16-013616-CZ, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Ally was served with a summons and copy of the complaint on November 3, 2016.

2. Plaintiff asserts claims under Sections 11, 12(a)(2) and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 77k; 15 U.S.C. § 77l(a)(2); 15 U.S.C. § 77o. (Ex. A, Compl. ¶ 1.) Plaintiff seeks to recover based upon investment losses it claims to have suffered that were allegedly the result of risks that were not fully disclosed in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus Supplement filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with Ally’s April 11, 2014 Initial Public Offering (“the Offering”). (Ex. A, Compl. ¶¶ 79-83.)

BASIS FOR FEDERAL JURISDICTION

3. “As a general rule, cases falling within the court’s federal question jurisdiction . . . are removable under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446.” *Hung v.*

Idreamsky Tech. Ltd., 2016 WL 299034, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 25, 2016). The Securities Act provides that the “district courts of the United States” have jurisdiction over suits brought under the Act. 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a).

4. The Securities Act, as amended by the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act (“SLUSA”) of 1998, also divests state courts of jurisdiction over “covered class actions” filed under the Securities Act. SLUSA was passed to “make[] Federal court the exclusive venue for most securities class action lawsuits.” H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 105-803, 2d Sess. (1998) at 13. To accomplish this goal, the Securities Act now provides, in relevant part as amended, that “[t]he district courts of the United States . . . shall have jurisdiction of offenses and violations under this subchapter . . . , concurrent with State and Territorial courts, except as provided in section 77p of this title with respect to covered class actions.” 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a).

5. A “covered class action” is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 77p(f)(2) to include a “single lawsuit” in which “damages are sought on behalf of more than 50 persons or prospective class members, and questions of law or fact common to those persons or members of the prospective class, without reference to issues of individualized reliance on an alleged misstatement or omission, predominate over any questions affecting only individual persons or members.” 15 U.S.C. § 77p(f)(2).

6. In the Complaint, plaintiff seeks damages “on behalf of a Class consisting of all those who purchased the Company’s common stock pursuant or traceable to” the Registration Statement and Prospectus Supplement filed in connection with the Offering. (Ex. A, Compl. ¶ 94.) Plaintiff alleges that it “believes there are thousands of members of the proposed Class” and that “[c]ommon questions of law and fact . . . predominate.” (*Id.* ¶¶ 95, 98.) Thus, Plaintiff alleges that this case is a “covered class action.”

7. As a result, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a), federal courts have exclusive jurisdiction over the case. *See, e.g., In re King Pharm., Inc.*, 230 F.R.D. 503, 505 (E.D. Tenn. 2004) (“SLUSA amended § 77v(a) to divest state courts of concurrent jurisdiction over covered class actions and to provide for removal of these cases to federal court.”).³

³ Courts disagree on the proper interpretation of 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a). *See, e.g., Hung*, 2016 WL 299034, at *2, 4 (holding a state court “is not a court of competent jurisdiction under § 77v(a), the bar on removal does not apply, and the case is removable,” and citing cases reaching contrary conclusion); *Kulinski v. Am. Elec. Power Co.*, No. 02-03-412, slip op. at 3-4 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 7 2004) (noting disagreement among courts and agreeing with magistrate judge’s conclusion that removal was proper). No federal appellate court has ruled on the proper interpretation of this statutory language. There is, however, a pending petition for a writ of certiorari from a California state court decision, filed with the United States Supreme Court, asking the Court to address the proper interpretation and application of 15 U.S.C. § 77v(a). *See Cyan, Inc., v. Beaver County Employees Retirement Fund*, Petition for Writ of Certiorari, No. 15-1439, filed May 24, 2016, 2016 WL 3040512.

REMOVAL UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1441, TIMELINESS, AND VENUE

8. Removal is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because this Court has original jurisdiction over this federal question case under 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

9. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) because this Court is the United States District Court for the district and division within which this action is pending.

10. Removal is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because this Notice of Removal is being filed within 30 days after service on Ally of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based.

**EFFECTUATION OF REMOVAL AND
APPLICABLE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

11. Ally hereby removes this action to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

12. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a true and correct copy of the complaint, which is the only pleading thus far served upon Defendants, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

13. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Ally is providing a written notice of Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal to all adverse parties in the form attached as Exhibit B.

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Ally will file a written Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal with the Clerk of the Court of the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Michigan, in the form attached as Exhibit B.

15. The allegations of this Notice were true at the time this action was commenced in state court and remain true as of the date of filing of this Notice of Removal.

16. No admission of fact is intended by this Notice of Removal, and Ally expressly reserves all defenses and motions otherwise available to it.

17. Defendants reserve the right to submit additional evidence in support of the Notice of Removal, including as may be necessary to address and refute any contentions set forth in a motion to remand.

WHEREFORE, Defendants hereby remove this action to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Dated: November 18, 2016

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Defendant Ally Financial Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing has been forwarded to counsel of record pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on this 18th day of November, 2016.

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